

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN

Project Environmental Impact Report /
Environmental Impact Statement

DRAFT

Agency Coordination Plan

Merced to Fresno Section
High-Speed Train
Project EIR/EIS

November 2009

Prepared for:

**California High-Speed
Rail Authority**



**U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration**



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT

TASK 3

MERCED TO FRESNO SECTION

AGENCY COORDINATION PLAN

Prepared by:

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1.0 Lead/Cooperating/Participating Agencies

1.1 List of Agencies, Roles, and Responsibilities

1.1.1 Overview to the Project and the Coordination Plan

The California High-Speed Train (CAHST) system intended to serve future intercity travel demand in California traverses a diverse set of communities, regions, and natural resources. As a result, there is a critical need to engage and coordinate with a number of public agencies in the planning, design, permitting, construction, and implementation of this landmark statewide rail system. This Agency Coordination Plan identifies public agencies that the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will consult during the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and describes the process by which the Authority and FRA proposes to seek guidance and share information during the preparation of the EIR/EIS. Additional detail regarding the California High Speed Train (HST) Project, the environmental process, public and agency coordination goals and approach, and public outreach tools can be found in the Merced to Fresno HST Project Public/Stakeholder/Agency Involvement Plan.

The Agency Coordination Plan is based on Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which has been codified as 23 USC Section 139 and establishes a formal procedure by which interested governmental agencies can participate in the environmental review process. The purpose of the SAFETEA-LU 6002 coordination plan is to facilitate and document the lead agencies' structured interaction with the public and other agencies as well as to inform groups of how the plan will be implemented. The coordination plan promotes an efficient, streamlined process, as well as good project management through coordination, scheduling, and early resolution of issues. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have adopted guidelines for implementation of Section 6002. The FRA does not have such guidelines but has developed this coordination plan, in conjunction with the Authority, to fulfill many of the same objectives as identified in Section 6002.

1.1.2 Participating Agencies

Section 6002 seeks to include Federal, State, tribal, regional, and local government agencies that may have an interest in a transportation project and participate in the environmental review process for that project. Nongovernmental organizations and private entities cannot serve as participating agencies. The Authority and FRA have identified the agencies below as potential participants in the Merced to Fresno High Speed Train (HST) Project EIR/EIS. The selection of these agencies represents a good faith, common-sense effort to identify and involve interested agencies early on, the objective being to raise and resolve issues as early and quickly as possible. Coordination with tribes will be addressed separately in a Tribal Consultation Plan.

The roles and responsibilities of participating agencies include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process starting at the earliest possible time, especially with regard to the development of the purpose and need statement, range of alternatives, methodologies, and the level of detail for the analysis of alternatives.
- Identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts.
- Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues.

- Participating in the scoping process. The scoping process should be designed so that agencies whose interest in the project comes to light as a result of initial scoping activities are invited to participate and still have an opportunity for involvement.

1.1.3 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating Agencies are those governmental agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise that have been specifically requested by the lead agency to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document for the project. Cooperating and Participating Agencies that have been sent invitations for this project, as well as their responsibilities, are listed in the tables below and their contact information is provided later in Section 2 of this Coordination Plan.

The Cooperating Agencies for this project have roles and responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in the NEPA process starting at the earliest possible time, especially with regard to the development of the purpose and need statement, range of alternatives, and methodologies;
- Identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts. Cooperating Agencies are also allowed to participate in the issue resolution process;
- Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues; and
- Reviewing and providing comment on the preliminary draft DEIS and the preferred alternative.

If new information reveals the need to request another agency to serve as a Cooperating Agency, FRA/Authority will issue that agency an invitation.

1.1.4 Responsible Agencies

Responsible Agencies, as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act, are those local and state governmental agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise that have discretionary approval power over a project. Examples of approval authority include review, approval, or permitting authority over a project. While the lead agency (the Authority) is responsible for considering all environmental impacts of a project before approving it, a responsible agency has a more specific charge: to consider only those aspects of a project that are subject to the responsible agency's jurisdiction. Under CEQA, responsible agencies have two sets of responsibilities. First, they must respond in a timely fashion to lead agency requests for information or comments at various stages in preparation of the EIR. Second, they must fulfill their role in approving or acting on a project. Responsible and Participating Agencies that have been sent invitations for this project, as well as their responsibilities, are listed in the tables below and their contact information is provided later in Section 2 of this Coordination Plan.

1.1.5 Initial Coordination

The FRA, with assistance from the Authority, submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS, as required by CEQ regulations 40 CFR 1501.7. The NOI was published in the Federal Register on March 16, 2009. Notification of the preparation of the EIS was also published in the project area newspapers. The NOI announced a series of scoping meetings at which agencies, organizations, and the public could learn about the EIS process and raise initial concerns about the project and the scope of the environmental documentation. Five scoping meetings were held in March 2009. The scoping comment period extended through April 10, 2009. Following the

close of the comment period, the FRA and the Authority determined that the environmental effects of the Merced to Fresno HST project could be assessed separately from Merced to Fresno and Fresno to Bakersfield. Therefore, amended NOIs were issued on October 1, 2009 to announce the preparation of a separate EIS for the Merced to Fresno and Fresno to Bakersfield sections of the HST system. The NOI extended the scoping period for the Merced to Fresno Section through October 30, 2009.

1.1.6 Lead Agencies

Agency Name	Role	Responsibilities
Federal Railroad Administration	Federal Lead Agency	Manage agency coordination process; prepare EIS; provide opportunity for public and cooperating/participating agency involvement
California High-Speed Rail Authority	State Lead Agency	Manage agency coordination process; prepare EIR, provide opportunity for public and cooperating/participating agency involvement

1.1.7 Potential Participating Resource Agencies (and Responsible or Cooperating Agencies)

Agency Name	Role	Responsibilities
Federal		
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Participating Agency	Oversees implementation and compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. Participates in Section 106 consultation regarding project impacts.
Bureau of Reclamation	Participating Agency	Oversees water resource management, specifically as it applies to the oversight and/or operation of numerous water diversions.
Department of Homeland Security	Participating Agency	Responsible for protecting United States territory from terrorist attacks and responding to natural disasters.
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Participating Agency	Implements Executive Order 11988 – encroachments on regulated floodplains.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Participating Agency	Consults under Endangered Species Act for anadromous species. Implements Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Participating Agency	Implements the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District	Invited Cooperating Agency	Implements Clean Water Act, Section 404. Implements Executive Order 11990 – Preservation of Wetlands.
U.S. Coast Guard	Participating Agency	Preserves access to U.S. navigable waters.

Agency Name	Role	Responsibilities
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Participating Agency	Oversees the implementation of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, including NEPA review responsibilities. Provides overall authority for Clean Water Act, Section 404.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Participating Agency	Consults under Endangered Species Act. Implements Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Manages federal wildlife refuge system. Reviews Biological Assessment and issues Biological Opinion for the project.
U.S. National Park Service	Participating Agency	Manages federal parks and parks acquired and/or developed under the Land and Water Conservation Act. Implements the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
State		
California Department of Conservation	Participating Agency	Administers agricultural conservation programs including California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and California Farmland Conservancy Program. Monitors farmland conversion.
California Department of Fish and Game	Participating/Responsible Agency	Regulates activities occurring in streams and/or lakes that could adversely affect fish or wildlife resources.
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Participating Agency	Manages State Park system.
California Department of Toxic Substances Control	Participating/Responsible Agency	Issues permits for the transfer, recycling, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.
California Department of Water Resources	Responsible Agency	Regulates state water resources.
California State Lands Commission	Participating Agency	Manages public rights of access to many of the State's waterways. Encroachment permits must be obtained for construction and other projects. Administers "Public Trust" lands.
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	Participating Agency	Manages the integrity of the existing flood control system and designated floodways through encroachment permits.
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	Participating Agency	Implements federal Clean Water Act and state Porter-Cologne Water Pollution Control Act.
Native American Heritage Commission	Participating/Responsible Agency	Provides procedures for notifying most likely descendants regarding the discovery of Native American human remains and associated grave goods. Maintains an inventory of sacred places.
State Historic Preservation Officer	Participating/Responsible Agency	Ensures that projects carried out or sponsored by federal and state agencies comply with federal and state historic preservation laws.

1.1.8 Potential Participating Transportation Agencies (and Responsible or Cooperating Agencies)

Agency Name	Role	Responsibilities
Federal Highway Administration, California Division	Participating Agency	Federal and state highway jurisdiction
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX	Participating Agency	Approval and funding of construction for transit improvements
California Department of Transportation	Participating/Responsible Agency	Encroachment permit, highway access, modification reviews, and conformance with safety regulations at airports.
California Department of Transportation, Districts 4, 6, and 10	Participating/Responsible Agency	Encroachment permit, highway access, modification reviews.
California Public Utilities Commission	Participating/Responsible Agency	Grade crossings, grade separations, systems safety
California Transportation Commission	Participating Agency	Funding of construction of highway, passenger rail and transit improvement throughout California

1.1.9 Interested Local Agencies¹

Agency Name	Role	Responsibilities
Merced County Association of Governments	Participating Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Participating Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
City of Chowchilla	Participating/Responsible Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
Madera County	Participating/Responsible Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
City of Madera	Participating/Responsible Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
Merced County	Participating/Responsible Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
City of Merced	Participating/Responsible Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
City of Fresno	Participating/Responsible Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS

Fresno County	Participating/ Responsible Agency	Review of documents from EIR/EIS
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¹ Coordination with Fresno area local agencies will be conducted through URS via the Fresno to Bakersfield Section EIR/EIS process.

1.2 Agency Contact Information

This draft of the Coordination Plan contains a number of prospective participating agencies. Following the response to the invitation letters to participate in the Merced to Fresno HST Project EIR/EIS, the list of agencies will be updated to include those that elect to participate and to exclude those that decline to participate. At the time the Coordination Plan is updated, agency contacts will be revised with the specific contact identified by the participating agency. The contact information for each agency identified in Section 1.1 is provided below.

1.2.1 Lead Agencies

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	Email
Federal Railroad Administration	David Valenstein	Environmental Program Manager	(202) 493-6368	david.valenstein@fra.dot.gov
California High-Speed Rail Authority	Carrie Bowen	Regional Director	((559) 221-2636	cbowen@hsr.ca.gov

1.2.2 Resource Agencies

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
Federal				
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)	John Fowler	Executive Director	202-606-8528	jfowler@achp.gov
Bureau of Reclamation	Donald R. Glaser	Regional Director	916-978-5005	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Department of Homeland Security	Rand Beers	Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate	202-282-8000	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region IX	Nancy Ward	Regional Administrator	415-923-7111	Nancy.Ward@dhs.gov
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA Fisheries	Robert Hoffman	Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation	562-980-4000	Bob.Hoffman@noaa.gov

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA Fisheries-Sacramento	Jeff Stuart	Fishery Biologist	916-930-3607	Jeff.Stuart@noaa.gov
National Park Service	Jonathan Jarvis	Regional Director, Pacific West Region	510-817-1304	Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Curtis Tarver	Area Conservationist, Fresno Area Office	559-252-2191	Curtis.tarver@ca.usda.gov
Regulatory Branch, U.S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District	Michael Jewell	Chief	916-557-5100	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Regulatory Division, U.S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers, South Division Branch	Paul Mencia	Chief	916-557-5100	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	Douglas Wisniewski	Chief of Staff	510-437-3488	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Eleventh Coast Guard District	Dave Sulouff	Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District	510-437-3516	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9	Carolyn Mulvihill	NEPA Reviewer	(415) 947-3554	mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services	Ren Lohofener	Regional Director	916-414-6712	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Sacramento Field Office	Ken Sanchez Jan King	San Joaquin Valley Branch Chief, Endangered Species Program	916-414-6600	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
State				
California Department of Conservation	Bruce Gwynne	Staff Environmental Scientist	916-323-4943	Bruce.gwynne@conservation.ca.gov
California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)	Kathleen Perry	Program Manager	916-653-7664	Kperry@dfg.ca.gov
California Department of Fish and Game	Jeffrey Single	Regional Manager, Central Region	559-243-4005	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Richard Rayburn	Chief of Natural Resources	916-653-6725	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
California Department of Toxic Substances Control	Maziar Movassaghi	Acting Director	916-322-0504	MMovassa@dtsc.ca.gov
California Department of Water Resources	Barbara McDonnell	Chief of Environmental Services	916-651-9777	bmcdonne@water.ca.gov
California State Lands Commission (CSLC)	Judy Brown	Public Land Manager	916-574-1868	brownj@slc.ca.gov
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	Jay Punia	Executive Officer	916-574-2611	jpunia@water.ca.gov
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	Karl Longley	Chair	559-445-5116	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Native American Heritage Commission	Katy Sanchez	Katy Sanchez	Katy Sanchez	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Native American Heritage Commission	Larry Myers	Executive Secretary	916-653-4082	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
State Historic Preservation Officer	Steve Mikesell	State Historic Preservation Officer	916-651-8453	mwdonaldson@parks.ca.gov
State Historic Preservation Officer	Joseph McDole	State Historian	916-653-8972	jmcdole@parks.ca.gov
State Water Resources Control Board	Liz Haven	Assistant Deputy Director	916-341-5752	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Daniel Barber	Supervisor, CEQA Indirect Source Review	559-230-5840	Daniel.Barber@valleyair.org

1.2.3 Transportation Agencies

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Region IX	Cindy Vigue	Director, State Programs	916-498-5017	Cindy.Vigue@dot.gov
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Region IX	Walter Waidelich	Division Administrator	916-498-5014	Walter.Waidelich@dot.gov

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX	Ray Sukys, Director of Planning and Program Development	Regional Administrator	(415) 744-3115	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and Environment	Susan Borinsky	Associate Administrator	202-366-4033	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
California Department of Transportation	Randell Iwasaki	Director	916-654-5266	Randell.Iwasaki@dot.ca.gov
California Department of Transportation, District 6	Malcom Dougherty	District Director	559-488-4082	Malcom.Dougherty@dot.ca.gov
California Department of Transportation, District 6	Carol McDonald	High Speed Rail Coordinator	559-445-5876	carol.mcdonald@dot.ca.gov
California Department of Transportation, District 10	Ross Chittenden	District Director	209-948-7543	ross.chittenden@dot.ca.gov
California Public Utilities Commission	Moses Stites	Rail Crossings Engineering Section	415-713-0092	Ms2@cpuc.ca.gov
California Transportation Commission	Bimla Rhinehart	Executive Director	916-654-4245	Bimla.rhinehart@dot.ca.gov
Madera County Transportation Commission	Patricia Taylor	Executive Director	559-675-0721	patricia@maderactc.org

1.2.4 Local Agencies¹

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
Council of Fresno County Governments	Tony Boren	Executive Director	559-233-4148	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Merced County Association of Governments	Joe Oliveira	Chairperson	661-862-5250	Joe.oliveira@mcs.gov.org
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Leroy Ornellas	Governing Board Chairperson	209-468-3113	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Chowchilla	David Phillips	Deputy Director of Public Services	559-665-8615 x301	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
Madera County, Planning Department	Joel Moses	Chief Assistant Planning Director	559-675-7821	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Madera County, Planning Commission	Donald Holly	Chairman	559-674-9787	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Madera County, RMA	Ray Beach	Acting Director	559-661-6333	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Madera County, Department of Agriculture	Jay Seslowe	Assistant Ag Commissioner	559-675-7876	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Madera County, Social Services	Hub Walsh	Director	559-675-7841	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Madera County, EDC	Julie Herd	Marketing Manager	559-675-7768	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Madera County, Sheriff's Department	John Anderson	Sheriff	559-284-0207	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Madera County, Board of Supervisors	Max Rodriguez	County Supervisor	559-675-7700	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Madera	Sally Bompreszi	Mayor Pro Tem	559-662-2810	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Madera, Community Development Department	David Merchen	Community Development Director	559-661-5430	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Merced County	William Nicholson	Assistant Development Services Director	209-385-7654	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Merced	William Cahill	Assistant City Manager	209-385-6834	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Fresno, City Manager's Office	Bruce Rudd	Assistant City Manager	559-621-7770	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Fresno, Planning & Development Department	Keith Bergthold	Interim Planning Director	559-621-8049	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting

Agency	Contact Person	Title	Phone	E-Mail
City of Fresno, Public Works Department	Bryan Jones	Traffic Engineering Manager	559-621-8820	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Fresno, Economic Development Department	Cynthia Dondero	Executive Assistant to the Director	559-621-8350	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
City of Fresno, Redevelopment Agency	Marlene Murphy	Executive Director	559-621-7600	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Fresno County, Department of Public Works and Planning	Lynn Gorman	Deputy Director	559-262-4078	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Fresno County, Department of Agriculture	Carol Hafner	Agricultural Commissioner	559-456-7510	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Fresno County, Department of Community Health	Kathleen Grassi	Assistant Director	559-445-3200	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Fresno County, Department of Public Health	Edward Moreno	Director	559-445-3200	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting
Fresno County, Economic Development Department	Jeanette Ishii	Coordinator	559-262-4168	To be obtained at initial Technical Working Group meeting

¹ Coordination with Fresno area local agencies will be conducted through URS via the Fresno to Bakersfield Section EIR/EIS process.

2.0 Coordination Points and Responsibilities

2.1 Coordination Points, Information Requirements and Responsibilities

Due to overlap of agency jurisdiction and similarity of issues within the Central Valley and in order to maximize agency resources, the Merced to Fresno team will combine agency coordination with the adjacent HST section teams of San Jose to Merced and Fresno to Bakersfield, as appropriate.

2.1.1 Invitation to Participate

All prospective participating agencies will be invited to participate in writing by the Authority. Invitations to cooperating federal agencies will be sent by the FRA. State, regional, and local governmental agencies will be invited to participate by the Authority. Federal agencies that decline to participate are asked to indicate so in writing and to provide an explanation for their decision. If no response to the invitation letter is received from other public agencies, it is assumed that they will not serve as participating agencies. This section lists key coordination points, including which agency is responsible for activities during that coordination point, the information required at each coordination point, and who is responsible for transmitting that information.

2.1.2 Key Coordination Points

Coordination Point	Information "In"	Agency Responsible	Information "Out"	Agency Responsible	Start	Finish
Technical Working Group (TWG)	Invitations to and agendas for TWG meetings	Authority	Attendance at pertinent meetings	TWG members	6/2009	12/2012
Project Scoping	Publish NOI/NOP and distribute to agencies, invite to scoping meetings, hold scoping meetings, provide draft purpose and need statement	FRA/Authority	Attend meetings, submit scoping comments and comments on purpose and need by end of comment period	Prospective Cooperating and Participating Agencies	3/2009	10/2009
Purpose and Need	Comments on draft Purpose and Need	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Refine purpose and need based on comments	FRA/Authority	5/2009	6/2009
Range of Alternatives*	Comments on range of alternatives from scoping	Cooperating and Participating Agencies			3/2009	4/2009
	Screening Analysis	Authority			6/2009	9/2009
	Input from Alternatives workshop	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Alternatives Analysis Report/EIS Alternatives Chapter	Authority	7/2009	7/2009
Collaboration on impact assessment methodologies	Draft methodologies	Authority	Comments on methodologies	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	5/2009	9/2009
Technical Reports	Draft technical reports	Authority	Comments on technical reports	Participating and Cooperating Agencies	3/2010	9/2010
Preparation/Circulation of Draft EIR/EIS	Analysis of affected environment and potential project impacts and coordination with agencies	FRA/Authority	Input and assistance on identification of resources and issues that could substantially delay permit approval and other project approvals	Cooperating Agencies	11/2009	9/2010
	Distribution of administrative draft of Draft EIR/EIS to	FRA/Authority	Comments on Administrative Draft	Cooperating Agencies	9/2010	10/2010

Coordination Point	Information "In"	Agency Responsible	Information "Out"	Agency Responsible	Start	Finish
	Cooperating Agencies for review					
	Circulation of Draft EIS, publication and distribution of Notice of Availability/Notice of Completion, advertisement of public hearings, public hearings	FRA/Authority	Review of DEIS and comment within comment period	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	1/2011	2/2011
Identify Preferred Alternative	Summary of public comments and review of EIR/EIS analysis presented to CHSRA Board and identification of Preferred Alternative	FRA/Authority	Preferred Alternative	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	2/2011	5/2011
Preparation/Circulation of Final EIR/EIS	Update analysis where necessary, continue design of preferred alternative, refine mitigation, respond to comments	FRA/Authority	Input and assistance on identification of resources and issues that could delay permit approvals	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	2/2011	8/2011
	Publication and circulation of Final EIS, publication and distribution of Notice of Availability/Notice of Completion	FRA/Authority			8/2011	8/2011
Issue Record of Decision (ROD)/Notice of Determination (NOD)	Draft ROD and NOD	FRA/Authority	Review of draft ROD	Cooperating Agencies	8/2011	9/2011
Permitting	Permit/approval application completion based on data in EIR/EIS and additional information from preliminary and final design	Authority	Coordination on permit completion and conditions and permit issuance	Cooperating Agencies as appropriate	12/2011	12/2012
*Additional detail for the alternatives analysis process is included in the California High-Speed Train Project Technical Memorandum: Alternatives Analysis Methods for Project EIR/EIS, December 2008						

3.0 Project Schedule

This section includes the key milestones and decision-making deadlines for each agency approval.

Merced to Fresno			2009				2010				2011				2012				2013	
			Quarter																	
			1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd
Draft EIR/EIS																				
	Scoping		X																	
	Invitation to become Cooperating/Participating Agency				X															
	Refine Purpose and Need			X																
	Submit Final Public Participation Plan				X															
	Submit Scoping Report			X																
	Cooperating and Participating Agency Review of Methodologies				X															
	Refine and Finalize Analysis Methodologies				X															
	Technical Reports																			
	T.R. - Traffic and Transit					X														
	T.R. - Air Quality					X														
	T.R. – Noise and Vibration					X														
	T.R. - Biological Resources and Wetland					X														
	T.R. – Hydrology and Water Resources					X														
	T.R. - Geology, Soils and Seismicity					X														
	T.R. - Hazardous Materials					X														
	T.R. - Communities and Environmental Justice					X														
	T.R. – Aesthetics and Visual Quality					X														
	T.R. - Cultural Resources and Paleontology						X													

Merced to Fresno			2009				2010				2011				2012				2013	
			Quarter																	
			1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	2 nd
	Cooperating Agency Review Technical Reports, as appropriate						X	X	X											
	Revise Technical Reports								X											
	EIS analysis of affected environment and project impacts				X	X	X	X												
	Distribute Administrative Draft EIR/EIS to Cooperating Agencies							X												
	Cooperating Agency Review of Administrative Draft							X												
	Revision of Administrative Draft EIR/EIS							X	X											
	Print and Distribute Draft EIR/EIS									X										
	Public Review/Hearings									X										
	Final EIR/EIS																			
	Identify Locally Preferred Alternative										X									
	Prepare and Submit Draft Final EIR/EIS									X	X	X								
	Submit Findings and Statements of Overriding Conditions											X								
	Submit Final EIR/EIS											X								
	NOD/ROD																			
	Authority Board Certification of EIR/EIS											X								
	Submit Draft NOD											X								
	Submit revised Draft NOD											X								
	Submit Draft ROD											X								
	Submit revised Draft ROD											X								
	FRA Clearance and Signature											X								

4.0 Coordination Meetings

The Regional Team with the assistance of the Lead Agencies, the Authority and FRA, will form agency coordination groups for each subsection the study area. These working groups will be composed of agency representatives that will likely be responsible for issuing environmental approvals and permits for each section of the HST system. A minimum of three groups should be formed for the purpose of conducting coordination meetings:

1. Local and regional planning agencies;
2. Transportation agencies; and
3. Environmental resource agencies.

Each of these groups will be expected to meet a minimum of twice during the Alternative Analysis (AA) process and every three to six months during the EIR/EIS process or as needed. This will provide forums for information exchange and coordination, which will inform the Authority's teams in developing EIRs/EISs to support issuance of permits and approvals.

Coordination Point	Anticipated Date	Purpose of Meeting	Local/ Regional TWG	Regulatory Agencies TWG
Scoping	March 2009	Identify range of alternatives, environmental effects and mitigation measures to be analyzed. Identify agency concerns.	X	X
Scoping Summary	June 2009	Overview of alternatives, summary of comments from scoping process	X	
Initial Development of Range of Alternatives / Criteria for Evaluation	July/October 2009	Review initial range of alternatives, including design options and stations, and criteria for evaluation in AA and receive input from agencies. Distribution of draft Purpose and Need for review.	X	X
AA Results	November 2009	Discuss results of alternatives analysis.	X	X
EIS Ecosystem Methodology	November 2009	Discuss biological survey methodology		X
Station Planning	November 2009	Presentation of station concepts, location, layout, and design approach	X	
EIS Analysis: Existing Conditions (2 or 3 meetings)	December 2009	Discuss existing conditions information, clarify information and analysis needs where necessary. Review of draft Purpose and Need.	X	X
Resource Evaluation	Spring 2010	Coordination with resource agencies regarding resources in project area, potential impacts and mitigation concepts.	X	X
Quarterly TWG meeting	Summer 2010	TBD	X	
Pre-Distribution of Draft EIR/EIS	Summer 2010	Review draft EIS prior to publication to discuss analysis results and potential mitigation and address remaining issues.	X	X
Quarterly TWG meeting	January 2011	TBD	X	
Public Hearings/ Comment Period	February 2011	Receive comments from agencies and public on the Draft EIR/EIS	X	X

Coordination Point	Anticipated Date	Purpose of Meeting	Local/ Regional TWG	Regulatory Agencies TWG
Results from Comment Period	Spring 2011	Discuss agency comments and address issues	X	X
Pre-Distribution of Final EIR/EIS	Summer 2011	Resolve remaining issues	X	X

5.0 Revision History

Table 5-1 identifies changes to the Coordination Plan. This portion of the Coordination Plan will be active and filled out as progress occurs.

Version	Date	Name	Description
1	8/24/09	Lauren Swift	Initial draft of Agency Coordination Plan
2	11/3/09	Lauren Swift	Update of agency contacts
Note: If a schedule was included in the original coordination plan and it is the item that requires modification, concurrence on the schedule change is required only if the schedule is being shortened and then only from cooperating agencies, not all participating agencies.			

6.0 Other Information